

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 17-20 were presented. Claims 18 and 20 are canceled, without prejudice, and claim 17 is amended. Claims 17 and 19 are now pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Japanese Patent Application No. 8-23041 (JP '041). In response, claim 17 is amended to clearly distinguish over JP '041. Claim 17, as amended, recites "a first insulating film covering a surface of the second conductor" and "forming a second insulating film covering a side wall of the self-aligned double-layer gate structure". Since these features are neither taught nor suggested by JP '041, claim 17 cannot be anticipated by JP '041. Claim 19 depends from claim 17 and is similarly allowable. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 17 and 19 under 35 USC 102(e) should be withdrawn. Claims 18 and 20 are canceled, without prejudice, rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in form for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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